

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Sergeant Taft V. Williams.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Sergeant Taft V. Williams upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and the most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death in combat of Sergeant Taft V. Williams; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Williams was a native of New Orleans and attended local public schools there; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Williams enlisted in the Army soon after high school, feeling a duty to serve his country in its uniformed armed services; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Williams' mother, Sylvin Williams, remembered that "he felt it was his job" to serve in the military and worried when he was stationed in hot spots such as Kuwait and Bosnia; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Williams was a ten-year veteran of the Army, distinguishing himself on many occasions with his highly disciplined, deeply motivated, intense dedication to the completion of his mission; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Williams' outstanding conduct as a leader in his unit served to motivate and lift his fellow soldiers and some recalled that "his smile and laugh kept many

1 of us going" when the going was tough; and

2 WHEREAS, Sergeant Williams was deployed to Iraq as a member of the Army
3 Maintenance Troop, Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment charged with
4 supporting the front line combat troops in the infamous "Triangle of Death," a known
5 stronghold of terrorist forces intent on harming American service members and stopping
6 Iraq's move toward democratic rule; and

7 WHEREAS, Sergeant Williams was 29 years old and was engaged in a dangerous
8 convoy mission on August 12, 2003, near the enemy infested town of Ramadi when he and
9 his men were attacked by terrorist forces; and

10 WHEREAS, the vehicle Sergeant Williams was riding was struck by an improvised
11 explosive device during the attack and he was mortally wounded; and

12 WHEREAS, Sergeant Williams' wife, Ethelmay, also a United States soldier in the
13 Army serving in Iraq, must now be both a mother and father to the two children of her fallen
14 husband; and

15 WHEREAS, Sergeant Williams will forever be remembered by his family, friends,
16 and fellow soldiers as a highly professional soldier and his sacrifice will serve as a reminder
17 that freedom is never really free and sometimes Americans must fight and suffer in order to
18 protect the freedoms and liberties its citizens now enjoy.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
20 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a
21 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army Sergeant Taft V. Williams for
22 fighting America's enemies in a faraway land.

23 THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be
24 transmitted to the mother and wife of Sergeant Taft V. Williams.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army Sergeant Taft V. Williams.